

I want to commend Representative SLAUGHTER for introducing this important resolution but especially for her tireless work to champion the arts and to remind us all of the importance they play in our lives and in our society.

As a member of the Congressional Arts Caucus, I believe that the arts play a crucial role in our society—enhancing our creativity, promoting critical aspects of education, and providing Americans with opportunities to view works of beauty and personal expression. Through the arts, we as a Nation, as a people, come to know ourselves. We push our boundaries, and we break free of our prejudices. Furthermore, the arts inspire our children to explore their own creativity and to encourage positive development in the course of their educational careers.

Has anyone here not observed how a student can blossom academically after the student finds a sense of accomplishment and achievement through artistic expression? The arts are a fundamental component of our society and warrant Federal funding.

Americans for the Arts was chartered in 1960 in North Carolina with the “mission of enhancing public and private support for the nonprofit arts and serving local arts councils in the United States.” Fifty years later, we all owe Americans for the Arts a debt of gratitude for successfully accomplishing this mission year in and year out. A few years after they were formed, Americans for the Arts helped establish the National Endowment for the Arts, which, to this day, has exposed millions of Americans to the arts and has supported local artists in a multitude of disciplines.

Even in this difficult economy, Americans for the Arts has continued to lead by supporting local public and nonprofit arts agencies. Americans for the Arts has also continued to help expose a new generation of students to the arts, both in and out of school. Further, as the gentlewoman from New York reported, Americans for the Arts has noted in its report of “Arts and Economic Prosperity” across the country that the “nonprofit arts and culture industry generates \$166.2 billion in economic activity every year.” The report also details that the arts support 5.7 million jobs and generate \$29.6 billion in government revenue. So not only are the arts good for our cultural development as a society, but they are good for our economic development as well.

While today we are recognizing Americans for the Arts for their first 50 years of accomplishments, we here should wish them well for the next 50 years. We need Americans for the Arts to remain, for years to come, a vital institution in our society.

Mr. PLATTS. Madam Speaker, I again would be honored to yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. EHLERS).

Mr. EHLERS. I thank the gentleman for yielding again.

Madam Speaker, I would like to follow up on comments made by my fellow physicist, Dr. HOLT, about how art is spreading and multiplying.

In the city of Grand Rapids, Michigan, the center of my district in my hometown, we have established the ArtPrize. A relatively young man by the name of Rick DeVos started this last year. It has been extremely successful. There have been entries from all over the world—many very, very good entries. We have just this week started again the ArtPrize for this year, again under the leadership of Rick DeVos. With the assistance of his family, they have done tremendous work.

I could not believe the quality of the art that was on display last year when my wife and I and some members of my family strolled through the streets of Grand Rapids. Every corner, every street, every building front, and every building lobby was filled with art. We attracted some 300,000 people to our city just to see the art that was on display.

This is an example that I would hope would be followed someday by most of the cities of our Nation. Certainly, in the meantime, though, it is a wonderful event, and it brings in many people from different parts of the country and, indeed, from different parts of the world to view the wonderful art that is on display in my hometown of Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Mr. PLATTS. Madam Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. POLIS. Madam Speaker, Americans for the Arts’ research has shown that over 100,000 nonprofit cultural organizations in the United States generate over \$166 billion in economic activity each year, supporting jobs and generating government revenue.

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I want to thank my chairwoman, Representative SLAUGHTER, for introducing this important resolution, and once again express my strong support for House Resolution 1582, which honors Americans for the Arts on their 50th anniversary. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this resolution.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. POLIS) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1582.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### SUPPORTING NATIONAL POSTDOC APPRECIATION WEEK

Mr. POLIS. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the

resolution (H. Res. 1545) expressing support for designation of the week beginning on the third Monday in September as “National Postdoc Appreciation Week”.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

#### H. RES. 1545

Whereas research is the mechanism by which humankind achieves innovation and progress;

Whereas in order for the United States to maintain a leadership role in the world, citizens must be well educated to harbor the world’s best scientists, engineers, and researchers in all fields of study;

Whereas postdoctoral scholars (postdocs) make up one of the most substantial driving forces for innovation and research;

Whereas the base of available knowledge is increasing exponentially;

Whereas given such rapid rates of knowledge expansion, increasing levels of training and education are required beyond the average undergraduate level and even beyond graduate study levels to generate the next generations of innovators in every field of study;

Whereas postdocs conduct work and studies in a complex transition period while being both trainees and paid professionals; and

Whereas the week beginning on the third Monday in September would be an appropriate week to designate as “National Postdoc Appreciation Week”: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

(1) supports the designation of “National Postdoc Appreciation Week”;

(2) recognizes the accomplishments and contributions postdocs make to relevant departments, institutions, fields, and communities around the United States and the world;

(3) recognizes the career development and other professional needs of postdocs in every field of study; and

(4) encourages the improvement of training and career opportunities in various research fields at all levels of training and stages of all research careers.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. POLIS) and the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PLATTS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Colorado.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. POLIS. Madam Speaker, I request 5 legislative days during which Members may revise and extend and insert extraneous material on House Resolution 1545 into the RECORD.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Colorado?

There was no objection.

Mr. POLIS. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of House Resolution 1545, which supports designation of this week as National Postdoc Appreciation Week.

Postdoctoral students, or postdocs, are academic or scholarly researchers who have recently completed their doctoral studies and are deepening their

expertise in a subject through mentored research or scholarly training. Postdocs often produce important works for publication in their field and bolster institutional research capabilities. They are a critically important source of innovation and are responsible for much of the cutting-edge research performed in this country that leads to the creation of jobs. This research has led to scientific developments and critical advancements in health, science, computers, and technology. Many postdocs later become full- and part-time faculty at our Nation's research institutions, teaching the next generation of undergraduates and graduates and continuing to build upon their research.

In all these ways and more, postdocs represent the best and brightest products of our research universities, and the future of our Nation's research efforts rests largely on their shoulders. Unfortunately, despite their great academic performance and contributions, postdocs are routinely provided with poor working conditions, paid low wages relative to their years of training, while working long hours, and are frequently ineligible for medical benefits, worker's compensation, disability insurance, paid maternity or paternity leave, or retirement accounts. Too often, postdocs are isolated and have little support from the institutions that benefit directly from their research.

In April of this year, the Education and Labor Committee held a field hearing to examine problems with first contract labor negotiations between the University of California and their postdoctoral scholars' union. It took the postdocs 3 years to unionize, and in November 2008, the Postdocs Union was finally certified by the California Public Employment Relations Board. This August, I am happy to say, the postdocs were able to complete their first contract negotiations, and we congratulate them on securing economic justice for themselves and their families.

It is impressive to see postdocs who not only excel in their personal lab work, but also give of their time and energy and leadership talents in order to improve working conditions in the lives for everyone in their field.

National Postdoc Appreciation Week helps to increase awareness of the many contributions postdoctoral scholars have made and continue to make to scientific research in America and the need to guarantee that they have fair employment standards in order to continue pursuing critical lifesaving research.

Last year, in September of 2009, over 70 U.S. research institutions participated in the first National Postdoc Appreciation Day. This year, Postdoc Appreciation Week provides an opportunity for institutions of higher education—like the University of Colorado at Boulder in my congressional district—businesses, research organiza-

tions, and others to honor and support the contributions of postdocs.

Madam Speaker, I want to thank Representative STEARNS for introducing this resolution and once again express my support for National Postdoc Appreciation Week, beginning the third Monday in September. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this resolution.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PLATTS. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of House Resolution 1545, expressing support for designation of the week beginning on the third Monday of September—this week—as National Postdoc Appreciation Week, and join with the gentleman from Colorado in recognizing Mr. STEARNS, the gentleman from Florida, for his sponsorship of this resolution.

Postdoctoral research is academic or scholarly research conducted by a person who has completed his or her doctoral studies, normally within the following 5 years. It is intended to further deepen expertise in a specialized subject area, including necessary skills and methods. Postdoctoral research is often considered essential to the scholarly mission of the host institution and is expected to produce relevant publications accordingly.

Postdoctoral research may be funded through an appointment with a salary or an appointment with a stipend or sponsorship award. Appointments for such research positions may be called postdoctoral research fellow, postdoctoral research associate, or postdoctoral research assistant. Depending on the type of appointment, postdoctoral researchers may work independently or under the supervision of a principal investigator.

Postdocs make invaluable contributions to the research enterprise, which is important if the United States is to remain competitive in a global market. To do so, we must make every effort to attract the best and the brightest men and women from all groups, including international scholars, to ensure that progress and innovation takes place in all fields of study.

Today, we recognize the accomplishments and contributions postdocs make to relevant institutions, fields of study, and communities around the world. We encourage the improvement of training and career opportunities in various research fields at all levels of training and stages of all research careers.

I urge all my colleagues to join in supporting this resolution.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. POLIS. I thank the gentleman.

Madam Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to join me in supporting National Postdoc Appreciation Week beginning, again, the week of the third Monday in September. I encourage my

colleagues to join me in supporting this resolution and showing strong support for the work and the contributions of postdocs across this country.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. POLIS) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1545.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### NATIONAL FLOOD INSURANCE PROGRAM REEXTENSION ACT OF 2010

Ms. WATERS. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 3814) to extend the National Flood Insurance Program until September 30, 2011.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 3814

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "National Flood Insurance Program Reextension Act of 2010".

#### SEC. 2. EXTENSION OF NATIONAL FLOOD INSURANCE PROGRAM.

(a) PROGRAM EXTENSION.—Section 1319 of the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 4026) is amended by striking "September 30, 2010" and inserting "September 30, 2011".

(b) FINANCING.—Section 1309(a) of the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 4016(a)) is amended by striking "September 30, 2010" and inserting "September 30, 2011".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATERS) and the gentlewoman from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. WATERS. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on this legislation and to insert extraneous material thereon.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from California?

There was no objection.

Ms. WATERS. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to speak in support of S. 3814, the National Flood Insurance Program Reextension Act of 2010, which would extend the National Flood Insurance Program through September 30, 2011.

The flood insurance program provides valuable protection for approximately 5.5 million homeowners. Unfortunately,